



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

9 August 1966

Dear Mr. Edwards,

As we agreed when I raised the subject last month, it might be advisable for me to stop by for an informal, off-the-record chat with someone at the Agency responsible for public affairs and related matters.

During the 1966-1967 academic year I shall be teaching a section of a Government 259 seminar on "National Security Policy" entitled "Intelligence and National Security", jointly offered by the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University, and the Harvard Law School. ✓

This seminar originated in 1954 when Professor (Brig. Gen.) W. Barton Leach established the Harvard Defense Policy Seminar as part of a Defense Studies Program at Harvard University; it is currently directed by Professor Henry A. Kissinger.

Sporadically, over the past decade, this seminar has included one section, meeting weekly or biweekly, which has discussed intelligence matters. The last person to give serious attention to the field of intelligence was, I believe, Harry Ransom, now a Professor at Vanderbilt University and author of the book, Central Intelligence and National Security. My section will be the first to concentrate upon the intelligence area since Professor Ransom left Harvard several years ago. ✓

Being at Harvard University, I need hardly mention that the seminar is unclassified; it will be divided into three sections, with perhaps 15-20 students in each section. Present plans call for the allocation to my section of any students (incl. government officials assigned to Harvard for the year, and alien visiting scholars) who express an interest in the intelligence area. However, it might well be possible to allocate any particular student(s) to one of the other sections (generally on military strategy, local wars and counter-insurgency, etc.) should such appear desirable. Each applicant for the seminar must fill out an application form which provides basic data about him; I would be interested in discussing possible use of these applications to ascertain appropriate section re-allocations in September 1966.

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It is the usual practice to have one speaker per year on "Intelligence" at the full seminar meeting; during his tenure as DDI, [REDACTED] was usually the guest speaker. I anticipate having occasional guests sitting-in on the intelligence section of the seminar in 1966-1967, in addition to the usual guest speaker before the full seminar.

I intend to caution any guests, reminding them that they are appearing before an uncleared group of students, even though the entire seminar is conducted as "off-the-record". I would be interested in any further reminders which anyone might consider it appropriate for me to raise.

The main emphasis of this seminar section will be upon United States intelligence and its relation to the national security; in addition, the section will discuss foreign intelligence activities and their relation to U.S. policies, objectives, and security, including a brief examination of security, C.I. and C.E. practices (in theory, not in detail or with reference to specific organizations).

Tentatively, the seminar will include a general survey of intelligence history and organization, with a discussion of terminology; a session on intelligence as a process; a session on intelligence as a variety of functions; a session on the inter-relationships among intelligence, C.I., C.E., security, press and media restraints, etc.; a session on economics, technological innovation, program analysis, etc.; four sessions on intelligence and policy-making (operations, intelligence production, causes of erroneous intelligence, and a pot pourri in the last session); and a final session on intelligence in a democratic society, discussing various limits and controls respecting intelligence, costs, alternatives, legislative oversight, and a hazardedly uncertain prognosis respecting intelligence activities in the decades ahead. Student reports occupy most of the remaining ones.

I would be interested in discussing various guidelines and criteria for discussions in this seminar section; I plan, for example, to set certain ground-rules: no discussion of any unpublished material respecting intelligence operations, or communications intelligence, no reference to particular intelligence operatives, etc. It would not be particularly helpful to me to learn that the entire area of intelligence operations is unfit for public discussion, for indeed it is an area subjected to considerable public discussion in the press, books, and the like; particular aspects or elements of intelligence operations which would be best avoided in public discussion are, however, of interest to me.

Perhaps I could come over for lunch, some day in the next two weeks, with the appropriate official; alternatively, I would be glad to invite your man over to the Pentagon for lunch.

I hope that the above description provides at least a general introduction to the problems which we are likely to encounter.

Sincerely,

  
William R. Harris

Mr. Philip K. Edwards